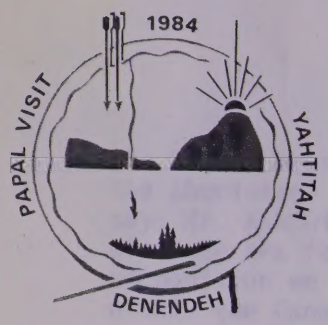


DENENDEH PAPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO

Phone: 695-2534/2535
695-3105/3106
Telex: 034-47532

POPE JOHN PAUL II TO VISIT CANADA'S ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN DENENDEH

Pope John Paul II will join Canada's aboriginal peoples in a spiritual celebration the morning of September I8, I984, in Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories. The Pope had earlier told the Canadian Organizers of his tour that he would like to meet with aboriginal peoples in their homeland and has accepted the invitation of the Dene and the four national aboriginal organizations to visit the Dene homeland - Denendeh.

During the Visit His Holiness will deliver a message to the aboriginal peoples of Canada and will hold a private audience with the leaders of the four national aboriginal organizations - the Assembly of First Nations, the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Metis National Council and the Native Council of Canada. Four Canadian aboriginal leaders will be accompanied by Jim Antoine, Chief of the Fort Simpson Dene Band and Stephen Kakfwi, President of the Dene Nation as well as some distinguished elders.

Papal Visit to Denendeh will be the Highlight of four days of spiritual celebrations by the aboriginal peoples hosted by the Dene Nation and the Chief of the Fort Simpson Dene Band.

A universal theme has been agreed upon by the aboriginal organizations - self - determination and the rights of the Aboriginal Peoples. The aboriginal peoples of Canada share the common objectives of seeking recognition of the right to self - determination as distinct peoples. The Dene (Indian), Inuit and Metis peoples are all involved in the struggle to gain recognition of their special rights as descendants of the original inhabitants of this land.

"We all share the hope that His Holiness will bless us in our struggles and will offer us the spiritual guidance and support we need to carry us through these turbulent but challenging times." says Stephen Kakfwi, President of the Dene Nation.

The Dene are extremely honoured that his holiness has chosen to visit the aboriginal peoples of Canada at a location within the Dene Homeland, says Mr. Kakfwi. "This acceptance to our invitation marks the beginning of a new era for the aboriginal peoples in which we have gained the initial recognition we need to continue the struggle towards full self - determination within the Canadian framework."

Fort Simpson, the location of the Papal Visit to Denendeh, is a Dene community of about I,000 people at the junction of the Deh Cho (Mackenzie) and Liard Rivers. As long as recorded times it has been the traditional meeting place of the Dene, according to Chief Jim Antoine. The people from all the neighbouring areas came to the island which is now known as Fort Simpson to pitch their teepees, trade and socialize.

Chief Antoine says that the visit will be a highly significant event in the lives of all aboriginal peoples in particular the Dene of Fort Simpson. Preparations are well underway for a meeting place, grounds and other services for the thousands of people expected in the community, he added.

1984
PAPAL VISIT
YAHTITAH
DENENDEH

DENENDEH PAPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO

Phone: 695-2534/2535
695-3105/3106
Telex: 034-47532

FORT SIMPSON'S PEOPLE

Fort Simpson is an island at the mouth of the Liard River on the Deh Cho (Mackenzie River). And, for all recorded time it had been a traditional meeting place of the Dene who live in the western part of the Northwest Territories.

It was to this island that the Dene in their huge birch - bark canoes and mooseskin boats brought their dried meat and fish to trade for moose, caribou and mountain sheep with the other Dene who lived in the mountains to the west. Later on fur traders came to trade their pots and pans, beads and clothes for fur.

The Dene who live in the Fort Simpson area are Slavey. Until the early 1800's they led a nomadic way of life, hunting, trapping and fishing. It was then that the Northwest Company and later the Hudson Bay Company came and established trading posts on what is now the island of Fort Simpson.

Fort Simpson is the oldest continously occupied trading post on the Deh Cho. From 1804 when the Northwest Company established its post to 1821 when the Northwest merged with the Hudson Bay Company, the island community was called Fort of the Forks. It was renamed after George Simpson, the first governor of the combined companies. The Dene have always called it Liidli Koe which means "Where the two rivers meet."

In 1858 both the Anglican and Catholic churches set up missions in Fort Simpson and later established educational and medical services. In 1916 the Catholic church built the areas's first hospital.

The churches ran the first schools but in 1958, the government, first the Federal and then the Territorial, took over responsibility for the school systems.

Beaver and marten are still plentiful in the Fort Simpson area as are lynx and wolves. Moose and woodland caribou are still the main source of food for the Dene. As well, a great variety of fish are available in surrounding rivers and lakes.

There are highways connecting Fort Simpson to both Alberta and British Columbia. In 1971 the Mackenzie Highway from Edmonton to Yellowknife was extended west from outside Hay River to Fort Simpson. In 1984 the Liard Highway connecting Fort Simpson to northern British Columbia was opened. Fort Simpson now is beginning to get an influx of tourists.

DENEMOSH PAPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
X0A 0N0

Phone: 695-2345
695-3103/3100
Telex: 034-47822

FORT SIMPSON'S PEOPLE

Fort Simpson is an island at the mouth of the Liard River on the Dehcho (Mackenzie River). And, for all recorded time it had been a traditional meeting place of the Dene who live in the western part of the Northwest Territories.

It was to this island that the Dene in their huge birch - bark canoes and moosekin boats brought their dried meat and fish to trade for moose, caribou and mountain sheep with the other Dene who lived in the mountains to the west. Later on fur traders came to trade their beads and pans, beads and clothes for fur.

The Dene who live in the Fort Simpson area are Slavey. Until the early 1800's they led a nomadic way of life, hunting, trapping and fishing. It was then that the Northwest Company and later the Hudson Bay Company came and established trading posts on what is now the island of Fort Simpson.

Fort Simpson is the oldest continuously occupied trading post in the Bay Co. From 1822 when the Northwest Company established its post to 1921 when the Northwest merged with the Hudson Bay Company, the island community was called Fort de la Forte. It was renamed after George Simpson, the first governor of the combined company. The Dene have always called it Lidli Koe which means "where the two rivers meet."

In 1858 both the Anglican and Catholic churches set up missions in Fort Simpson and later established educational and medical services. In 1919 the Catholic church built the area's first hospital.

The territories won the first school, but in 1928, the government, first the Federal and then the Territorial, took over responsibility for the school system.

Water and water are still plentiful in the Fort Simpson area as are fur and wolves. Moose and woodland caribou are still the main source of food for the Dene. As well, a great variety of fish are available in surrounding rivers and lakes.

There are highways connecting Fort Simpson to both Alberta and British Columbia. In 1971 the Mackenzie Highway from Edmonton to Yellowknife was extended west from Hay River to Fort Simpson. In 1984 the Liard Highway connecting Fort Simpson to northern British Columbia was opened. Fort Simpson now is beginning to open as a hub of tourists.

While trapping and transportation were the major economic activities to date the pressures of development in the non-renewable resource sector are having an impact. Extensive exploration is occurring and the twelve - inch pipeline will be crossing the Deh Cho about six miles upstream from Fort Simpson.

The Fort Simpson Dene Band under the leadership of Chief Jim Antoine has implemented a community based company, Nógha Enterprises, to enable the Dene to participate in some of the economic activity occurring in the region.

The majority of the 1,000 people living in the Village of Fort Simpson are Dene. Of the 300 non-native residents perhaps only 100 would consider Fort Simpson their permanent home.

There are three political organizations in the community. The Dene Band Council, the Village Council and the Metis Association. The community and the region are represented in the Territorial Legislative Assembly by Nick Sibbeston,who is also the Minister of Local Government. The Mayor Jim Villeneuve, is also speaker of the Deh Cho Regional Council.

Nahanni National Park lies 145 km, west of Fort Simpson. While there are no roads to the Nahanni, it can be reached either by air or waters. Fort Simpson and Watson Lake in the Yukon are the major jumping off and supply points. There is a Parks Canada Office in Fort Simpson for further information.

Scheduled air services are available to Fort Simpson daily (except Sunday) by either Pacific Western Airlines and Northwest Territorial Airways. Charter aircraft are also available.

DENENDEH PAPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO

Phone: 695-2534/2535
695-3105/3106
Telex: 034-47532

THE DENE LOGO AND THE LEGEND OF YAMORIA

In the past there had been discussions as to what pacticular symbol can represent the Dene, and which they can identify with.

The symbol that has been chosen is backed up by a legend.

There have always been legends that our elders shared with us. One of these happens to be about a very special person.

Many years ago, before the whiteman came into this country, a special man Yamoria travelled into this land. He put everything into its rightful place. The animals and human beings were separated from each other. Whatever was harmful to people was gotten rid of. By doing this, he had set laws for our people to follow also laws set for the animals to follow. Until this very day, we are still holding onto them.

This story had come about when there were large beavers living in Great Bear Lake (Sahtu).

The beavers were harmful to the people living in this area. People that lived in this area would travel across the lake by canoe to hunt the caribou. The beavers did not like them to travel across the lake so they would get as close as possible and splash their tails hoping to tip the canoes. In this way they would be rid of the people. When Yamoria heard about that, he went to Bear Lake and told the people that he would be chasing the beavers away.

Yamoria started chasing the beavers aroung the lake, the big beavers immediatly went down to Bear River. The younger ones were harder to chase towards the river. During the time that Yamoria was chasing the younger ones around the lake, the bigger beavers had built a dam on the river and that's where the Bear River rapids are to this very day. Yamoria got the younger ones to head down to Bear River and them chased them all down the river to where Fort Norman is now situated.

At the confluence of the two rivers, Bear River and Decho, he killed two medium beavers and one small one. The larger ones continued down the Great River.

DENENDEH PAPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
X0E 0N0

Phone: 695-2534/2535
695-3108/3106
Telex: 034-47532

THE DENE LOGO AND THE LEGEND OF YAMORIA

In the past there had been discussions as to what particular symbol can represent the Dene, and which they can identify with.

The symbol that has been chosen is backed up by a legend.

There have always been legends that our elders shared with us. One of these happens to be about a very special person.

Many years ago, before the whiteman came into this country, a special man Yamoria travelled into this land. He put everything into its rightful place. The animals and human beings were separated from each other. Whatever was harmful to people was gotten rid of. By doing this, he had set laws for our people to follow also laws set for the animals to follow. Until this very day, we are still holding onto them.

This story had come about when there were large beavers living in Great Bear Lake (Sahtu).

The beavers were harmful to the people living in this area. People that lived in this area would travel across the lake by canoe to hunt the caribou. The beavers did not like them to travel across the lake so they would get as close as possible and splash their tails hoping to tip the canoes. In this way they would be rid of the people. When Yamoria heard about that, he went to Bear Lake and told the people that he would be chasing the beavers away.

Yamoria started chasing the beavers around the lake, the big beavers immediatly went down to Bear River. The younger ones were harder to chase towards the river. During the time that Yamoria was chasing the younger ones around the lake, the bigger beavers had built a dam on the river and that's where the Bear River rapids are to this very day. Yamoria got the younger ones to head down to Bear River and them chased them all down the river to where Fort Norman is now situated.

At the confluence of the two rivers, Bear River and Dacho, he killed two medium beavers and one small one. The larger ones continued down the Great River.

After killing the beavers, he stretched and nailed the three hides on the south face of Bear Rock Mountain. You can still see them to this very day.

While he was doing this - the two larger beavers that continued on down the Great River (Dehcho) had built two more rapids.

After he had finished with those beavers that he had killed at Fort Norman, he then continued on chasing the other two larger beavers down the Great River (Dehcho).

From the top of Bear Rock Mountain, he shot two arrows at the confluence of the two rivers and he said 'as long as this earth shall last you shall call them Yamoria's arrows.' still to this day you can see two big poles sticking out of the River. Even though after each spring when the ice goes there always are two big poles sticking out of the river.

After shooting the two arrows into the river he brought the beavers that he shot with him up the Great River (Dehcho) about 20 miles from the confluence There he slept and where he had cooked the beavers, the grease that had drizzled from the beavers started to burn and until to this very day that fire continues to burn.

There are some legends that state that if you travel at night by that site and if you can see the fire coming out then you would live a very long life. This they say that it's not always visible for everyone, just a few.

According to Stanley Isiah of Fort Simpson, as spoken at the Fort Norman Der National Assembly in August 1979, the symbol of the three belts on Bear Rock Mountain, the forever burning fire up river from that mountain are signs on the land set there as a reminder of the teachings of the legends. Stanley s that if we remember the teachings of the legends and live them. if we take the sign set on the land for us as our symbol, we will never have any troubl surviving as a nation.

DENENDEH PAPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO

Phone: 695-2534/2535
695-3105/3106
Telex: 034-47532

PROGRAM SUMMARY

TUESDAY; SEPTEMBER 18, 1984

0945 Pope arrives at Fort Simpson Airport and is welcomed by:
Bishop Paul Piche of the Mackenzie Fort Smith Diocese
Chief Jim Antoine of the Fort Simpson Dene Council and Celine Antoine
Jim Villeneuve Mayor of Fort Simpson Village Council and Theresa Villeneuve
Albertine Rodh President of the Fort Simpson Metis Local and Herb Rodh
Celine Lafferty Elder of Fort Simpson
Agnes Semmler Deputy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories
Nick Sibbeston and Karen Sibbeston

0957 Popemobile procession into Fort Simpson and to the meeting site
1021 on the flats where the Liard River flows into the Deh Cho (Mackenzie) River.

1010 The National Native Leaders -- David Ahenakew, President of the Assembly of First Nations
John Amagoalik, President of Inuit Tapirisat of Canada
Louis Bruyere, President of the Native Council of Canada
James Sinclair, Chairman of the Metis National Council
Steven Kakfwi, President of the Dene Nation
Jose Carlos Morales,President of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples and Elders from Native Organizations will arrive on the podium

1021 The Pope and Bishop Piche will descend from the popemobile
1031 The Pope will receive a stole from the Dene Women and a Pectoral Cross from the Inuit. He will walk to the base of the monument and greet the people. He will then pray in thanksgiving for water, fire, air and land and then bless the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada. Immediately after the blessing the Dene Drummers sing the prayer song of the Angels.

1034 The lead drummer will present the Pope with his drum and then Chief Antoine will walk with the Pope towards the podium. He will greet people on his walk.

1106 Chief Antoine will introduce the Pope to Steven Kakfwi the President of the Dene Nation and Mr. Kakfwi introduces the other Native Leaders and Elders on the podium

1111 Steven Kakfwi welcomes the Pope to Denendeh

1114 The Pope responds to the welcome

1117 The Pope has a private audience with the Four National Native Leaders. During this audience each Native Leader will present the Pope with a gift on behalf of his organization and will receive a gift from the Pope.

1140 The Pope will address the Assembly

1210 The Pope bids farewell to the people. He will then bless the Assembly and the Dene Drummer will sing a farewell song

1213 The Papal Motorcade leaves for the airport

1237 The Papal motorcade stops at the base of the plane and descends from his limosine. He receives flowers from a Dene Child and blesses the child

1244 The Pope gets on the plane

1245 The Papal aircraft leaves Fort Simpson for Vancouver

If more information is required please contact:

The Denendeh Papal Office
P.O. Box 89
FORT SIMPSON, N.W.T.
XOE 0N0

Phone: 695 2534/2535 or 695 3105/3106

DENENDEH PAPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO

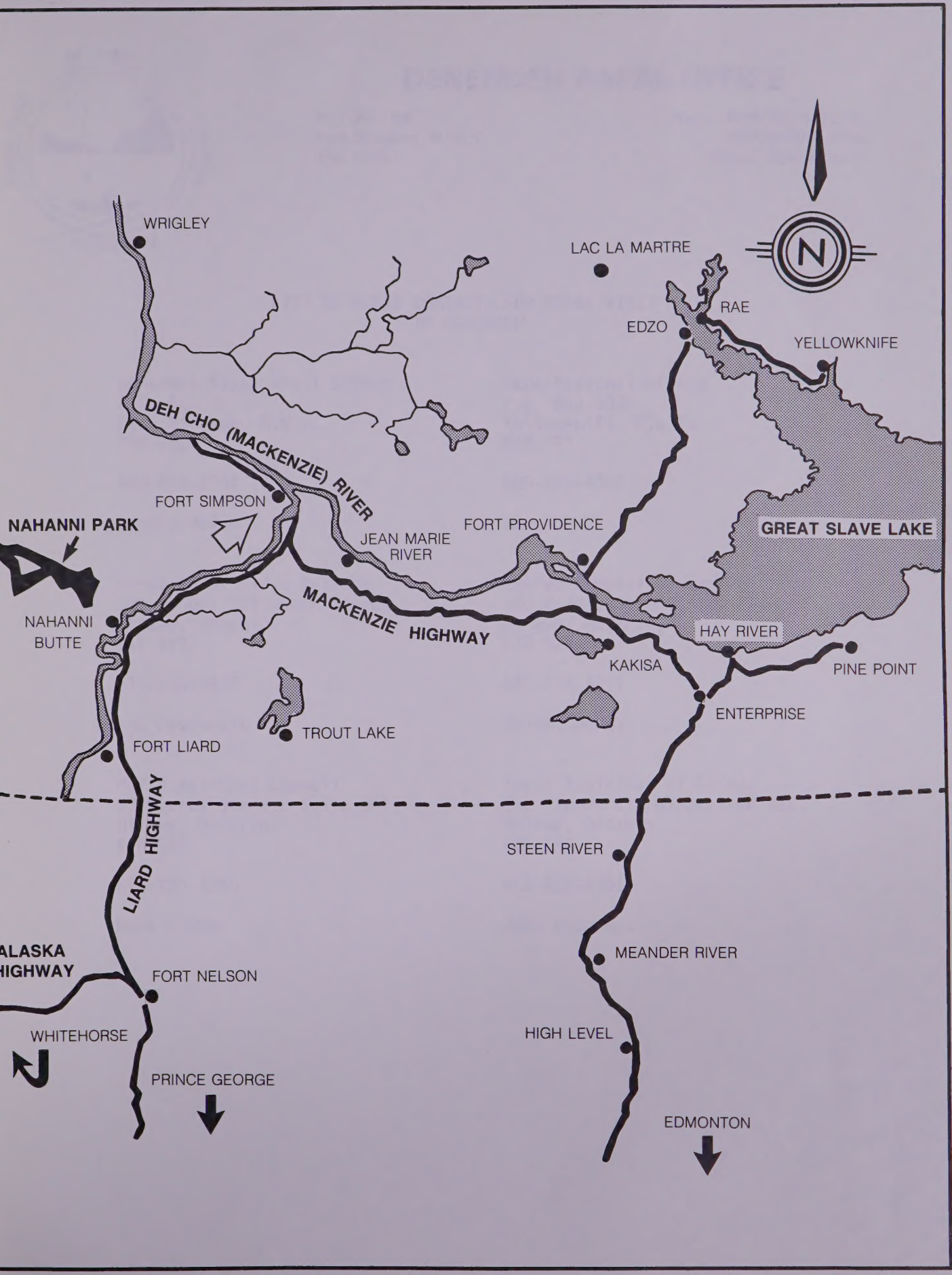
Phone: 695-2534/2535
695-3105/3106
Telex: 034-47532

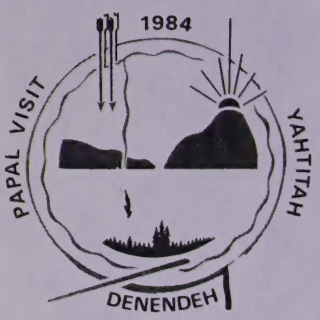
FACTS ABOUT FORT SIMPSON

Population	I,000
Languages	English, Slavey
Mayor	Jim Villeneuve
Dene Chief	Jim Antoine
Parish Priest	Camille Piche
Mean Temperature for September	7.2 C
Number of days in September with rain	7
Number of days in September with Snow	I
Number of Sept. morning planes can't land due to fog	4
Air Service - Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Fri.,	NWT Air from Yellowknife
- Saturday	PWA from Calgary, Edmonton & Yellowknife
Charter Aircraft in Community	Simpson Air Ltd. Wolverine Air Ltd. Buffalo Airways (Helicopters) Okanagan Helicopters Totem Air
Campgroung	36 permanent campsites in wooded area on the island of Fort Simpson temporary campsites for I5,000 during celebrations for the Pope's Visit.
Vehicle routes	The Mackenzie Highway north from Edmonton was extended to Fort Simpson in I97I. The Liard Highway connecting Fort Simpson to northern British Columbia was opened in I984.
Ferry Service	Regular service across the Lia River from 8 a.m. to I2 p.m., September I0 to 25 a second ferry will be in operation. Both ferries will operate 24 hours per day except of Sept. I7 when the ferry will cease operation at midnight and resu 3 p.m. September 18, I984.

Docking Facilities	One Mile of river front will be available for beaching craft.
Service Stations	Two in Fort Simpson Checkpoint services at the Jct. of Liard and Mackenzie Highways, 60 kilometres from Ft. Simpson.
Grocery Stores	The Bay T & J's Grocery
Restuarants	Fort Simpson Hotel New Four Seasons Restaurant
*Accommodations	Fort Simpson Hotel(36 rooms) Maroda Motel (8 rooms)

* There will be a Tent City set up for the media. It will have the capacity of sleeping 200 people. Space has already been reserved for I00 journalists travelling with the Pope who will come to Fort Simpson on Monday, September I7, I984. while the Pope is resting after his Edmonton visit.


N
WRIGLEY
LAC LA MARTRE
RAE
EDZO
YELLOWKNIFE
DEH CHO (MACKENZIE) RIVER
FORT SIMPSON
NAHANNI PARK
JEAN MARIE RIVER
FORT PROVIDENCE
GREAT SLAVE LAKE
NAHANNI BUTTE
MACKENZIE HIGHWAY
HAY RIVER
KAKISA
PINE POINT
ENTERPRISE
TROUT LAKE
FORT LIARD
LIARD HIGHWAY
STEEN RIVER
ALASKA HIGHWAY
MEANDER RIVER
FORT NELSON
WHITEHORSE
HIGH LEVEL
PRINCE GEORGE
EDMONTON



DENENDEH PAPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO

Phone: 695-2534/2535
695-3105/3106
Telex: 034-47532

LIST OF MEDIA CONTACTS FOR PAPAL VISIT
TO DENENDEH

Denendeh Papal Visit Office
P.O. Box 89
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
XOE ONO

403-695-2534

Sandra Dolan

Dene National Office
P.O. Box 2338
Yellowknife, N.W.T.
XIA 2P7

403-873-408I

Nancy Hall

Assembly of First Nations
5th Floor, 222 Queen Street.
Ottawa, Ontario.
KIP 5V9

6I3-236-0673

Lou Desmerais

Native Council of Canada
450 Rideau Street, 4th Floor.
Ottawa. Ontario.
KIN 5Z4

6I3-238-35II

Dwight Dorey

Metis National Council
63 Sparks Street, Suite 50I.
Ottawa, Ontario.
KIP 5A6

6I3-230-7240

Mark Gryba

Inuit Tapirisat of Canada
3rd Floor, I76 Gloucester St.,
Ottawa, Ontario.
K2P 0A6

6I3-238-8I8I

John Urquhart

DENENDEH PAPAL OFFICE

P.O. Box 69
Fort Simpson, N.W.T.
X0E 0N0

Phone: 695-2234/2934
695-3105/3106
Telex 034-47289

LIST OF MEDIA CONTACTS FOR PAPAL VISIT TO DENENDEH

Denendeh Papal Visit Office P.O. Box 69 Fort Simpson, N.W.T. X0E 0N0	Dene National Office P.O. Box 2933 Yellowknife, N.W.T. X1A 2P7
403-695-2234	403-873-4081
Sandra Dolan	Nancy Hall
Assembly of First Nations 8th Floor, 222 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5V9	Native Council of Canada 450 Rideau Street, 4th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 5Z4
613-236-0673	613-238-3511
Lou Demerais	Dwight Dorey
Métis National Council 63 Sparks Street, Suite 501, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5A6	Inuit Tapirisat of Canada 3rd Floor, 170 Gloucester St., Ottawa, Ontario, K2P 0A6
613-230-7240	613-238-8181
Mark Orsha	John Urquhart